

Wakefield Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes 9/19/2022

Call to order: 7:05pm

Present:

Sherri Oken
Teresa Aravena-González
Elizabeth Assenza
Benny Wheat
Lindsay Averbook
Nicole Jacob
Jeremy Little

Liaisons:

Mehreen Butt, Town Council Liaison

Absent:

Daniela Nedbalek
Ashley Carter
Eileen Rooney
Stephen Ingalls, School Committee Liaison
Amy Rando, Police Liaison
Superintendent Doug Lyons, ex officio
Town Administrator Steve Maio, ex officio
Chief of Police Steve Skory, ex officio

From the public:

Vanessa Westlake - WHRC youth volunteer

Public participation

No public participation

Approval of minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from 8/16/22 HRC General Meeting Minutes: unanimously approved
- Motion to approve all August and September Hispanic Heritage Month meeting minutes: unanimously approved
- Indigenous Peoples Day minutes: discussion and vote tabled because there is not a quorum of subcommittee members present.

Follow Up Items from last meeting

- Hispanic Heritage Month Planning Update (5 minutes)
 - Charly Duri who performed in our event last year is coming again this year
 - Consentidos partner Oscar Gomez
 - The introduction to the event will be from Saritin Rizzuto and will be bilingual
 - There will be a mini dance lesson will be for meringue, bachata, chacha, and more provided by Dance Caliente (Eileen Herman-Haase and Raul Nieves)!

- There will be an HRC table staffed by Lindsay and Elizabeth. We'll be selling the signs. We'll have the Hispanic Heritage Month Jeopardy game
- The event is an outdoor event on the Library plaza. The Americal is booked and the UU church is also rented out on Thursdays. The Library won't allow the event to happen in the lobby but we'll inquire again. Maybe a different room in the Library? Maybe the Albion Cultural Center?
- Sherri will talk to Jackie at the Library about moving the event inside if needed
- IPD Recap Planning Update (5 minutes)
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - i. There is no update to the language of the land acknowledgement since the last time we talked about it in our WHRC meeting. We had received input from a staff person at a local indigenous culture and education non-profit, and from some other local indigenous advocacy groups. We sent the draft language to the Massachusett Nation to get their input or thoughts but never heard back. This isn't surprising as they get a lot of these requests and have only so much capacity to handle all the business of their sovereign nation along with outside inquiries.
 - ii. We could start using the land acknowledgement in its current form in our public meetings and events. It can be an evolving document so if we get input in the future from other indigenous folks we can incorporate that and be in conversation and in relationship with them about that and about any harm we might have done.
 - iii. Motion to start using the land acknowledgement in future public meetings and events: unanimously approved
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6. Grant Applications (Teresa/Sherri)

- The grant deadline for the Mass Cultural Council grant is coming up. It's a reimbursement-based grant for any events in FY2023, so it could be used for Hispanic Heritage Month (though the cost of the concert is already covered), Indigenous Peoples Day, MLK & CSK Day, APAH, Juneteenth, etc. We got the grant and used it on Pride for two years, so we should spend it on another event this year.
- Sherri will write the grant application for APAH, with contributions from other commissioners for other events. It will be one grant application asking for funds for three events or so: APAH, MLK & CSK, and IPD.

7. Farmer's Market Volunteer (3-5) (Please confirm participation)

- We are booked for the Farmers Market on October 1st. Right now we don't have enough people to fully staff it. So far these are the people signed up:
 - 9-11: Eileen
 - 10-Noon: Daniela
 - 11-1: Benny (tentative)

- If you can help cover these shifts please reach out to Eileen.

8. Wakefield 101 (10/20 – 6-7:30)

- a. Volunteers Needs – Eileen to attend the whole session. Sherri also is available.
- b. Swag donated by Leah Blackstone (AAPI, Juneteenth Bookmarks, other LGBTQIA Swag available

9. Wakefield Town Day (10/8/2022)

- This outdoor festival is from 1pm to 4pm on this Saturday afternoon. We'll divide it into approximately hour and a half long shifts.
- These events are a great opportunity for us to connect with members of the community. This is a responsibility of the HRC commissioners
- Contact Eileen if you can be available

10. Matters not anticipated

- Take minutes in October: Sherri

11. Review action list

- Sherri will talk to Jackie at the Library about moving the event inside if needed
- Sherri will write the grant application for APAH, with contributions from other commissioners for other events. It will be one grant application asking for funds for three events or so: APAH, MLK & CSK, and IPD.
- Everyone: contact Eileen to sign up for tabling shifts at the various upcoming community events.
- Take minutes in October: Sherri

12. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn unanimously approved. Adjourned at 7:57pm